



OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
SERVICES
Fall 2008

* make a plan * build a kit * be prepared * get involved *

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DID YOU KNOW?

This year, Daylight Saving Time ends on November 2nd at 2 am. So, remember to turn back your clocks one hour. It is also a good time to check the batteries in your smoke detectors to make sure they are in good working order.

EXTRA, EXTRA!

The Name This Newsletter contest has been extended.

Please email us your entry (one per person) to sjprepared@sanjoseca.gov
All entries must be received by
September 19, 2008

The winner will receive a disaster preparedness backpack and have his or her name and photo published in a future edition of the newsletter.

California's Early Fire Season



On June 20, 2008, a severe thunderstorm system moved through northern and central California, resulting in over 6,000 total lightning strikes in more than 26 counties. According to the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, the overwhelming number of lightning strikes, along with record dry conditions sparked over 2,000 fires. A combination of aggressive firefighting efforts from CAL FIRE and the US Forest Service, including over 25,000 firefighting personnel from across the state, nation and world, strategically suppressed these incidents.

To date, 2,096 fires have burned nearly 1.3 million acres. The majority of these fires have been contained, yet conditions remain extremely dry and fire danger remains very high. As one of the most severe wildland fire situations in California's history, these fires destroyed a total of 511 structures and claimed 15 lives.

On June 26, 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger sent a letter to President Bush requesting that he declare an emergency for the State of California. Two days later, President Bush declared an emergency in the State of California due to the fires that were ignited by the lightning strikes. On August 13, 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger sent a second letter to President Bush. The request, which is still pending approval, included a major federal disaster declaration for the State of California as a result of the wildfires; dating the declaration to cover wildfires that began on May 22, 2008; it also included individual assistance to help victims of the wildfires.

Fire Safety

There are several things you can do to minimize potential fire hazards both inside and outside your home. Outside, you can regularly clean debris off your roof and gutters; enclose, cover, or skirt overhangs and exposed undersides, including eaves and balconies; and make sure your house numbers are clearly visible from the street. Inside your home, make sure you have one working smoke detector in each living area, including the hallway outside the bedrooms, and on each level of your home; have an A-B-C type fire extinguisher easily accessible on each floor, in the garage, and near the kitchen. Also, make sure they are in good working order by checking the gauge for proper charge. For more fire safety tips, visit www.sjfd.org



San José Prepared! Member Wins Awards

Ed Updegraff, Co-Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) at The Villages Golf and Country Club and San José Prepared! member, was recently given an "Outstanding Service" award at The Villages. He was also honored by the Community Association Institute (CAI), a national organization, as one of this year's outstanding community service leaders.

Ed has been an active member at The Villages since 1998, first as a founding member of the District Advisory Committee, and continuing with the emergency services activities through EPC.

This past May, The Villages experienced a fire which unfortunately resulted in one casualty. The EPC group was instrumental in organizing the residents and making sure that they were safe and kept aware of the situation.

In addition, Ed served for many years on The Villages' Governing Documents Committee and helped to rework and update important policies and procedures, specifically regarding emergency preparedness within the community.

Before receiving these awards, Ed was also honored by the Santa Clara County Emergency Manager's



Ed Updegraff addresses the crowd at The Villages.

Association in 2004 as the San José Volunteer of the Year for Emergency Preparedness. Congratulations Ed!



Saman Saffarzadeh using the SMART Phone.

SMART Phone *By Saman Saffarzadeh*

Office of Emergency Services (OES) Training Specialist Saman Saffarzadeh conducts a monthly Satellite Mutual Aid Radio Talkgroup (SMART) phone test with the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Department of Justice, and other emergency management agencies throughout the country. These tests are to ensure that satellite phone capabilities are working properly in the event of a disaster.

The monthly tests are conducted by the Department of Justice (DOJ) Seattle. SMART activity is monitored

by the DOJ 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. These tests are pivotal because during an emergency, anyone who has access to SMART will always be able to have contact with participating agencies in the event that telephone and cellular phone services are no longer intact.

San José Fire and San José Police Communication units also participate in the tests. San José's OES has access to two of these satellite phones; one is housed within the Office of Emergency Services, and another is a mobile unit.

Train the Trainer *By Alex Fraser*

How do you teach a million plus people how to prepare for the next big disaster?

It's easy - you get some help.

And that is what San José Prepared! has done with its Volunteer Trainer Program. Over thirty volunteer trainers, of all ages, both men and women and from many ethnic backgrounds, are helping other San José residents get prepared, by teaching the 2-Hour Home & Family Disaster Preparedness Course.

These enthusiastic volunteers, who teach the classes in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and soon Mandarin Chinese, have all undergone a special train-the-trainer course. In addition, they have spent several hours studying the detailed training material and

have worked with an experienced trainer, before starting out on their own. Eventually, volunteer trainers will also receive training to assist with the revamped 20-Hour Course as well.

But as any one of the volunteer trainers will tell you, the rewards of helping educate people about how to prepare and doing something that may possibly save lives, makes the efforts more worthwhile.

In addition to teaching classes, the volunteer trainers also help educate people by attending community events, talking to residents about getting prepared. And during a recent "heat emergency" they even hit the streets, talking to people about cooling centers and letting them know how to protect themselves from severe temperatures.



Participants at the June 7th Train-the-Trainer event.

If you are eighteen years or older, and would like to do something important to help your community, consider becoming a San José Prepared! volunteer trainer.

FREE 2-Hour Disaster Preparedness Presentations**No Fee**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
10/7/08	6-8pm	Shirakawa Community Center
10/9/08	6-8pm	Edenvale Library
10/15/08	6-8pm	Evergreen Library
10/22/08	6-8pm	Starbird Community Center
10/23/08	6-8pm	Gardner Community Center
11/5/08	6-8pm	Camden Community Center
11/13/08	6-8pm	Almaden Community Center
11/18/08	5:30 - 7:30pm	Berryessa Library
12/10/08	5:30 - 7:30pm	Rose Garden Library
12/11/08	6-8pm	Hank Lopez Community Center

20-Hour Course (Weeknights and Saturday Class)**Fee: \$40.00**

<u>MODULE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1	Mon	1/26/2009	6-8pm	Personal Preparedness and Neighborhood Organization	EOC
2	Thurs	1/29/2009	6-8pm	Fire Safety and Hazardous Materials	BFO
3	Sat	1/31/2009	9am-3pm	Refresher: Modules 1 & 2 Hands-on Fire Extinguisher Safety	EOC
4	Mon	2/2/2009	6-8pm	START Triage and Disaster Psychology	EOC
5	Thurs	2/5/2009	6-8pm	Light Search and Rescue and Damage Assessment	EOC
6	Sat	2/7/2009	9am-3pm	Terrorism Awareness and Preparedness Refresher: Modules 4 & 5 Hands-on Activities Graduation	EOC

20-Hour Course (Saturday Classes)**Fee: \$40.00**

<u>MODULE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1	Sat	3/21/2009	8:30am-12:30pm	Personal Preparedness and Neighborhood Organization	EOC
2	Sat	4/4/2009*	8:30am-12:30pm	Fire Safety and Hazardous Materials	BFO
3	Sat	4/18/2009**	8:30am-12:30pm	START Triage and Disaster Psychology	EOC
4	Sat	4/25/2009	8:30am-12:30pm	Light Search and Rescue and Damage Assessment	EOC
5	Sat	5/16/2009***	8:30am-12:30pm	Terrorism Awareness and Preparedness/ Graduation	EOC

20-Hour Course (Weeknights and Saturday Class)**Fee: \$40.00**

<u>MODULE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1	Mon	6/15/2009	6-8pm	Personal Preparedness and Neighborhood Organization	EOC
2	Thurs	6/18/2009	6-8pm	Fire Safety and Hazardous Materials	BFO
3	Sat	6/20/2009	9am-3pm	Refresher: Modules 1 & 2 Hands-on Fire Extinguisher Safety	EOC
4	Mon	6/22/2009	6-8pm	START Triage and Disaster Psychology	EOC
5	Thurs	6/25/2009	6-8pm	Light Search and Rescue and Damage Assessment	EOC
6	Sat	6/27/2009	9am-3pm	Terrorism Awareness and Preparedness Refresher: Modules 4 & 5 Hands-on Activities Graduation	EOC

* Changed due to 3/28/09 Cesar Chavez Weekend

** Changed due to 4/11/09 Easter Holiday Weekend

*** Changed due to 5/2/09 Cinco de Mayo Weekend and 5/10/09 Mother's Day Weekend

EOC = (Emergency Operations Center) 855 N. San Pedro Street #454 San José, CA 95110

BFO = (Bureau of Field Operations) 255 S. Montgomery Street San José, CA 95110

Class schedules are subject to change. Visit www.sanjoseca.gov/emergencyservices/sanjoseprepared or give us a call for updatesC
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Office of Emergency Services

855 North San Pedro Street, #404
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Phone: 408-277-4595
Fax: 408-277-3345
E-mail: SJPrepared@sanjoseca.gov

Visit us online: www.sanjoseca.gov/emergencyservices

As part of the Mayor of San José's **Green Vision**, send us an email to request the **electronic version** of the newsletter!



National Night Out

San José Prepared! Volunteer Trainer Alex Fraser (right) speaking with a community member at Emma Prusch Park. >



< San José Prepared! Volunteer Trainer Hector Hernandez (right) staffing a resource table at Gardner Community Center.



San José Prepared! Volunteer Trainer Yvonne Wong (right) speaking with community members at Orchard School. >



Tuesday, August 5th marked the 25th Annual National Night Out. This campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood associations, local officials, and City staff taking part in various community events, ranging from ice cream socials to movie nights. This year, the Office of Emergency Services participated in six different National Night Out events throughout San José.

A special thanks goes out to all our volunteers who helped promote the *San José Prepared!* program as well as to the host organizations who held their events. These organizations included the Primrose Neighborhood Association, Orchard School, Gardner Community Center, the Great Oaks Neighborhood Association, the Hoffman/Via Monte Neighborhood Association, and Emma Prusch Park.

Each event was well attended, with volunteers reporting community interest in the *San José Prepared!* program, including participation in the 2-Hour and 20-Hour courses, as well as volunteering with the program.

National Night Out was a huge success throughout the City of San José and provided an excellent venue to promote neighborhood camaraderie. The *San José Prepared!* Volunteer Trainers enjoyed working with the community and getting the word out about the importance of working together in emergency preparedness.

This publication can be made available upon request in alternate formats, such as, Braille, large print, audio recording or accessible electronic format.

Requests can be made by calling 408-277-4595 or 408-294-9337

"This publication is supported by Award No.2006-0071, awarded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Grants and Training (G&T)."

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